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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 9, 2007
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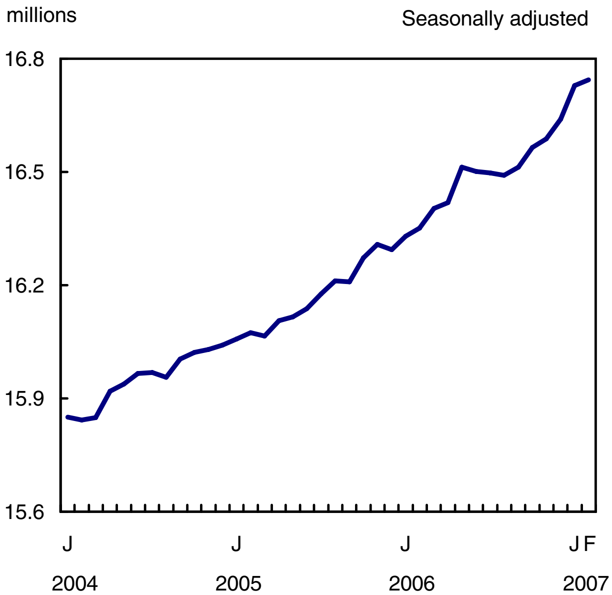
Releases

Releases

Labour Force Survey
February 2007

Estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey show little overall change in the labour market in February as employment edged up slightly (+14,000). The unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 6.1%. Employment has been on an upward trend since August 2006 with average monthly gains of 42,000.

Employment



There were an estimated 392,000 more people working in February compared to a year ago, an increase of 2.4%. Most of the gain over the past 12 months has been in full-time employment. However, since October 2006, part-time employment has also picked up strength.

Youths were the only group with a significant increase in February as employment among both adult men and women was little changed.

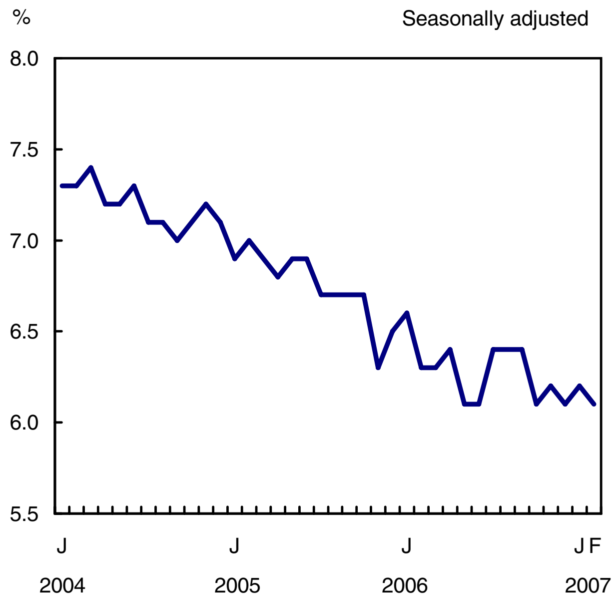
The service sector continued to generate employment in February, while fewer people worked in the goods sector, the result of employment losses mainly in manufacturing and agriculture.

Manufacturing employment fell in February following six months of little change. February's losses were primarily in Quebec.

While employment was little changed in February, a long term trend that continues to hold is robust employment growth in Canada's three westernmost provinces. Since February 2006, growth in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia has exceeded the national growth rate of 2.4%. This is in contrast to Central Canada where employment gains in both Quebec and Ontario have been more restrained with growth below the national average.

Both British Columbia and New Brunswick hit new record-low unemployment rates in February.

Unemployment rate



More people working in services

In February, employment in the service sector rose by an estimated 49,000. This sector continued to drive employment growth in Central and Eastern Canada over the past 12 months, while growth in the goods sector spurred gains in the West.

Service-sector gains in February were in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+18,000) with the largest increases in Quebec and Ontario. Compared to February of last year, employment in this industry is up 4.8%.

The strong upward trend in health care and social assistance observed over the past 12 months continued in February (+16,000). This brings total gains from a year ago to 110,000 (+6.3%), with growth spread across most provinces.

The number of people working in transportation and warehousing also rose in February, up 17,000, mainly in Ontario and British Columbia.

Losses in the goods-producing sector

While there was added employment in services, the goods-producing sector stumbled in February, mainly due to declines in manufacturing and agriculture.

There were manufacturing declines in Quebec (-33,000) and Alberta (-6,000) in February. The recent strike by Canadian National Railway workers may have led some manufacturers and support industries to scale back production. Despite February's decline, factory employment increased by an estimated 25,000 in Alberta from a year ago. Over the same period, manufacturing employment also increased by 10,000 in Manitoba. More recently, British Columbia has also added employment in manufacturing, with gains since last September totalling 15,000.

Agriculture also lost ground in February with an estimated 16,000 fewer people reporting this industry as their main source of employment.

While overall employment growth in the goods sector has been dampened by declines in manufacturing, there has been added employment in both natural resources (+11.5%) and construction (+4.0%) over the past 12 months. This is mostly due to strength in Alberta and British Columbia.

Atlantic Canada gains while the West holds its ground

In February, employment in Newfoundland and Labrador rose by an estimated 2,500, pushing the unemployment rate down 1.1 percentage points to 14.3%. Gains earlier in 2006 more than offset declines later in the year, leaving employment 9,000 above the level observed at the start of 2006.

Employment also rose by 2,500 in New Brunswick, bringing gains since last September, when the current upward trend began in the province, to 10,000. The increase over this period has been predominantly in the goods-producing sector. There have also been increases in health care and social assistance. The combined effect of more employment in February along with fewer people in the labour force pushed the unemployment rate down 1.2 percentage points to 6.9%, setting a 31-year low. The proportion of the population aged 15 and over who were employed rose by 0.4 percentage points to 58.8% in February, matching the record high set last year.

Despite little employment change in February, the trend in Canada's three westernmost provinces has been strong. Since February 2006, employment growth in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia has been well above the national growth rate of 2.4% and their respective unemployment rates remain the lowest in Canada. While most of the employment growth in the West has been in the goods sector, Saskatchewan's gains were predominantly in the service sector.

In Alberta, the continued abundance of employment opportunities has resulted in a new record high employment rate in February (71.6%). Similarly, British Columbia's employment rate maintained its record high (63.5%), while the unemployment rate hit a new record low of 4.0% in February.

Overall employment remained little changed in Quebec in February as gains in construction; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; as well as business, building and other support services were offset by large losses in manufacturing. Over the past 12 months, there have been decreases in paper, primary metal and non-metallic mineral products, plastic and rubber products, as well as in clothing manufacturing. Compared to a year ago, overall employment in the province is up 1.3% (+50,000). The unemployment rate was little changed in February at 7.8%.

Similar to Quebec, the trend in Ontario over the past 12 months is also one of slower growth than the national average with employment in the province up only 1.9% (+125,000). Growth over the past year has been stronger in part-time than in full-time employment. Although the number of factory workers held steady in February, compared to 12 months ago, employment in manufacturing is down 5.1% with the largest losses in motor vehicles and parts, primary metal and fabricated metal products manufacturing.

More youths working in February

There were an estimated 21,000 more youths employed in February, bringing total gains over the past year to 48,000 (+1.9%). Although most of the increases over this 12-month period have been in full time, more recent gains have also occurred in part time. With more youths working in February, their unemployment rate continued to trend down, falling by 0.7 percentage points to 11.0%, the lowest since 1990.

Among adults, it is women who have experienced the most employment growth over the past 12 months, up 3.5% or 223,000, while employment among men has increased by only 1.6% (+122,000). The unemployment rate for adult women remained at its record-low 4.9% in February, lower than the rate among adult men (5.3%).

Note: The Labour Force Survey estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free).

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

Available at 7:00 a.m. online under *The Daily* module of our website.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free) is now available online for the week ending February 17. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The *CD-ROM Labour Force Historical Review*, 2006 (71F0004XCB, $209) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By Subject* module of our website choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on April 5.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division.

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Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	January 2007	February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	26,392.3	26,415.0	22.7	370.6	0.1	1.4
Labour force	17,825.8	17,827.5	1.7	369.5	0.0	2.1
Employment	16,729.3	16,743.5	14.2	392.1	0.1	2.4
Full-time	13,683.1	13,693.6	10.5	342.9	0.1	2.6
Part-time	3,046.1	3,049.8	3.7	49.2	0.1	1.6
Unemployment	1,096.5	1,084.0	-12.5	-22.6	-1.1	-2.0
Participation rate	67.5	67.5	0.0	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.1	-0.1	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.4	63.4	0.0	0.6	...	...
Part-time rate	18.2	18.2	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,341.2	4,342.6	1.4	35.4	0.0	0.8
Labour force	2,892.3	2,894.4	2.1	40.5	0.1	1.4
Employment	2,554.9	2,575.4	20.5	48.0	0.8	1.9
Full-time	1,421.7	1,432.1	10.4	42.5	0.7	3.1
Part-time	1,133.2	1,143.3	10.1	5.5	0.9	0.5
Unemployment	337.4	319.1	-18.3	-7.4	-5.4	-2.3
Participation rate	66.6	66.7	0.1	0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.7	11.0	-0.7	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	58.9	59.3	0.4	0.6	...	...
Part-time rate	44.4	44.4	0.0	-0.6	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	10,770.4	10,781.0	10.6	167.2	0.1	1.6
Labour force	7,964.0	7,958.1	-5.9	125.6	-0.1	1.6
Employment	7,544.1	7,534.0	-10.1	121.6	-0.1	1.6
Full-time	7,022.8	7,025.3	2.5	98.4	0.0	1.4
Part-time	521.3	508.7	-12.6	23.2	-2.4	4.8
Unemployment	419.9	424.1	4.2	4.1	1.0	1.0
Participation rate	73.9	73.8	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	70.0	69.9	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	6.9	6.8	-0.1	0.3	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,280.7	11,291.4	10.7	168.0	0.1	1.5
Labour force	6,969.4	6,975.0	5.6	203.3	0.1	3.0
Employment	6,630.3	6,634.1	3.8	222.6	0.1	3.5
Full-time	5,238.7	5,236.3	-2.4	202.0	0.0	4.0
Part-time	1,391.6	1,397.9	6.3	20.6	0.5	1.5
Unemployment	339.1	340.8	1.7	-19.4	0.5	-5.4
Participation rate	61.8	61.8	0.0	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.9	0.0	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	58.8	0.0	1.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.0	21.1	0.1	-0.4	...	...

... not applicable

Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS)

	January 2007	February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,184.6	14,189.4	4.8	377.4	0.0	2.7
Self-employed	2,544.7	2,554.1	9.4	14.8	0.4	0.6
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,199.6	3,197.8	-1.8	15.4	-0.1	0.5
Private	10,985.0	10,991.6	6.6	362.0	0.1	3.4
All industries	16,729.3	16,743.5	14.2	392.1	0.1	2.4
Goods-producing sector	4,036.9	4,002.6	-34.3	5.7	-0.8	0.1
Agriculture	346.1	330.6	-15.5	-21.1	-4.5	-6.0
Natural resources	352.0	351.1	-0.9	36.1	-0.3	11.5
Utilities	124.0	128.1	4.1	6.5	3.3	5.3
Construction	1,097.6	1,110.3	12.7	42.9	1.2	4.0
Manufacturing	2,117.2	2,082.5	-34.7	-58.8	-1.6	-2.7
Service-producing sector	12,692.4	12,740.9	48.5	386.4	0.4	3.1
Trade	2,647.2	2,638.3	-8.9	2.5	-0.3	0.1
Transportation and warehousing	806.5	823.5	17.0	23.0	2.1	2.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,048.4	1,066.4	18.0	48.8	1.7	4.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,118.5	1,120.7	2.2	38.8	0.2	3.6
Business, building and other support services	707.6	702.5	-5.1	46.4	-0.7	7.1
Educational services	1,176.8	1,169.4	-7.4	8.4	-0.6	0.7
Health care and social assistance	1,831.1	1,847.1	16.0	109.7	0.9	6.3
Information, culture and recreation	759.6	763.5	3.9	29.9	0.5	4.1
Accommodation and food services	1,054.5	1,058.0	3.5	58.9	0.3	5.9
Other services	707.8	716.6	8.8	16.3	1.2	2.3
Public administration	834.4	834.9	0.5	3.7	0.1	0.4

Note: *Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.*

Labour force characteristics by province

	January 2007	February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	426.1	425.9	-0.2	-3.2	0.0	-0.7
Labour force	255.0	254.7	-0.3	1.2	-0.1	0.5
Employment	215.8	218.3	2.5	3.0	1.2	1.4
Full-time	183.2	184.6	1.4	5.3	0.8	3.0
Part-time	32.6	33.7	1.1	-2.3	3.4	-6.4
Unemployment	39.2	36.3	-2.9	-1.9	-7.4	-5.0
Participation rate	59.8	59.8	0.0	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	15.4	14.3	-1.1	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	50.6	51.3	0.7	1.1	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	112.8	112.8	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7
Labour force	78.6	77.9	-0.7	0.6	-0.9	0.8
Employment	70.2	69.9	-0.3	1.0	-0.4	1.5
Full-time	58.2	56.6	-1.6	-1.2	-2.7	-2.1
Part-time	12.0	13.3	1.3	2.2	10.8	19.8
Unemployment	8.4	7.9	-0.5	-0.5	-6.0	-6.0
Participation rate	69.7	69.1	-0.6	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.7	10.1	-0.6	-0.8	...	...
Employment rate	62.2	62.0	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	763.5	763.5	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.1
Labour force	487.0	486.8	-0.2	4.7	0.0	1.0
Employment	449.1	450.8	1.7	9.0	0.4	2.0
Full-time	369.1	371.1	2.0	13.0	0.5	3.6
Part-time	79.9	79.8	-0.1	-3.9	-0.1	-4.7
Unemployment	37.9	36.0	-1.9	-4.3	-5.0	-10.7
Participation rate	63.8	63.8	0.0	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.4	-0.4	-1.0	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	59.0	0.2	1.1	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	611.4	611.8	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
Labour force	389.0	386.5	-2.5	-9.4	-0.6	-2.4
Employment	357.3	359.8	2.5	1.1	0.7	0.3
Full-time	300.5	302.7	2.2	5.8	0.7	2.0
Part-time	56.8	57.1	0.3	-4.7	0.5	-7.6
Unemployment	31.7	26.7	-5.0	-10.6	-15.8	-28.4
Participation rate	63.6	63.2	-0.4	-1.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.1	6.9	-1.2	-2.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.4	58.8	0.4	0.1	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,288.9	6,293.0	4.1	67.8	0.1	1.1
Labour force	4,119.9	4,122.2	2.3	38.4	0.1	0.9
Employment	3,804.1	3,799.0	-5.1	50.4	-0.1	1.3
Full-time	3,102.9	3,102.7	-0.2	34.7	0.0	1.1
Part-time	701.2	696.3	-4.9	15.7	-0.7	2.3
Unemployment	315.7	323.2	7.5	-12.0	2.4	-3.6
Participation rate	65.5	65.5	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.8	0.1	-0.4	...	...
Employment rate	60.5	60.4	-0.1	0.2	...	...

... not applicable
Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics by province

	January 2007	February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007	January to February 2007	February 2006 to February 2007
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,301.5	10,309.2	7.7	133.5	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,001.0	7,002.7	1.7	141.0	0.0	2.1
Employment	6,554.2	6,560.2	6.0	125.3	0.1	1.9
Full-time	5,353.4	5,354.9	1.5	58.3	0.0	1.1
Part-time	1,200.8	1,205.3	4.5	67.1	0.4	5.9
Unemployment	446.7	442.5	-4.2	15.6	-0.9	3.7
Participation rate	68.0	67.9	-0.1	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.3	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Employment rate	63.6	63.6	0.0	0.4	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	894.3	894.7	0.4	4.6	0.0	0.5
Labour force	619.0	617.2	-1.8	4.2	-0.3	0.7
Employment	590.7	590.5	-0.2	4.1	0.0	0.7
Full-time	478.5	478.4	-0.1	7.5	0.0	1.6
Part-time	112.2	112.1	-0.1	-3.4	-0.1	-2.9
Unemployment	28.3	26.7	-1.6	0.1	-5.7	0.4
Participation rate	69.2	69.0	-0.2	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.6	4.3	-0.3	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	66.1	66.0	-0.1	0.1	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	747.0	747.4	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
Labour force	526.8	524.0	-2.8	14.3	-0.5	2.8
Employment	505.1	503.3	-1.8	20.7	-0.4	4.3
Full-time	409.8	406.1	-3.7	17.4	-0.9	4.5
Part-time	95.4	97.2	1.8	3.3	1.9	3.5
Unemployment	21.6	20.7	-0.9	-6.4	-4.2	-23.6
Participation rate	70.5	70.1	-0.4	1.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.0	-0.1	-1.3	...	...
Employment rate	67.6	67.3	-0.3	2.7	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,703.1	2,709.2	6.1	105.9	0.2	4.1
Labour force	1,997.7	2,008.1	10.4	110.1	0.5	5.8
Employment	1,932.5	1,938.7	6.2	100.7	0.3	5.5
Full-time	1,633.2	1,639.0	5.8	119.0	0.4	7.8
Part-time	299.3	299.7	0.4	-18.3	0.1	-5.8
Unemployment	65.2	69.4	4.2	9.4	6.4	15.7
Participation rate	73.9	74.1	0.2	1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.3	...	...
Employment rate	71.5	71.6	0.1	1.0	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,543.7	3,547.4	3.7	59.5	0.1	1.7
Labour force	2,352.0	2,347.4	-4.6	64.3	-0.2	2.8
Employment	2,250.2	2,252.9	2.7	76.6	0.1	3.5
Full-time	1,794.3	1,797.5	3.2	83.9	0.2	4.9
Part-time	455.9	455.3	-0.6	-7.4	-0.1	-1.6
Unemployment	101.8	94.6	-7.2	-12.2	-7.1	-11.4
Participation rate	66.4	66.2	-0.2	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.0	-0.3	-0.7	...	...
Employment rate	63.5	63.5	0.0	1.1	...	...

... not applicable
Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

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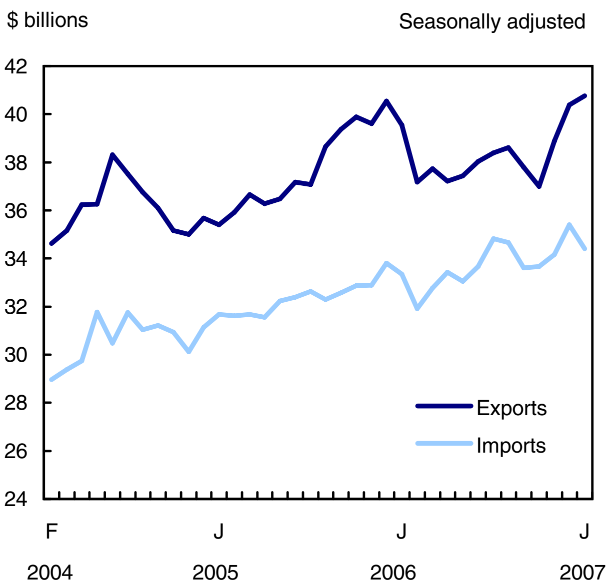
Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2007

Canadian companies exported a record high $40.8 billion worth of merchandise goods in January while imports slowed, pushing our trade surplus with the world to its highest level in more than a year.

Exports and imports



Exports rose for the third consecutive month, up 0.9%. Imports declined 2.8% to $34.4 billion in January, down from the previous month's record high of $35.4 billion.

As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the world widened considerably from $5.0 billion to $6.3 billion, the largest surplus since December 2005.

Constant dollar exports, which refer to exports for which the change in prices has been removed in order to isolate the change in volumes, were slightly stronger, up 1.1%, while constant dollar imports were down a slightly more moderate 2.4%.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

International trade data for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom are available on both a balance of payments basis as well as a customs basis. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only.

There will be a section in The Daily *at the end of each quarter describing trends in trade between Canada and emerging economies, such as China. This section will discuss data which is on a customs basis and is not seasonally adjusted.*

Please be advised that the International Trade Division is currently updating the base year for import and export price indices. This update will see the base year change from 1997 to 2002, and is being undertaken in collaboration with the System of National Accounts. Base year 2002 CANSIM tables will replace the current CANSIM tables 228-0035 to 228-0040 and 228-0044 to 228-0046 in mid-2007.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

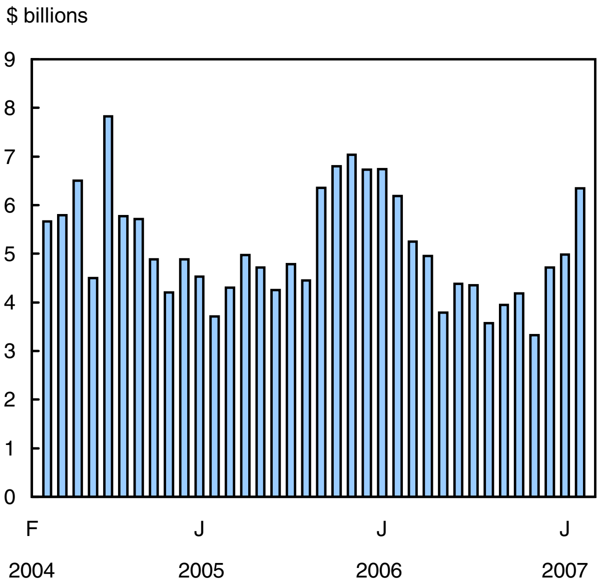
Exports to the United States were up 0.4% despite drops in automotive and energy products, while imports dropped 2.9% as a result of widespread declines. This yielded a trade surplus with the United States of $8.7 billion, the highest since January 2006.

Exports to countries other than the United States increased 2.6% to $9.6 billion as metals, drilling equipment and fishing vessels all headed overseas. Imports from these countries were down 2.6%, which resulted in a trade deficit of $2.4 billion. This was the lowest level since April 2004.

The trade deficit with countries other than the United States had been widening for several years until early 2006. It has since reversed as the steep increase in metal export values has outpaced Canada's growing demand for consumer goods.

Also, for the first time since December 1995, Canada posted a merchandise trade surplus with the European Union.

Trade balance



Machinery and equipment exports lead January's gain

A large increase in machinery and equipment secured the gain in exports, but was aided by increases in industrial goods, agricultural products as well as forestry. Declines were recorded for both energy products and automotive products.

Machinery and equipment exports increased 5.4% to $8.7 billion, on the strength of transportation equipment, such as drilling equipment and fishing vessels. Information technology equipment and industrial machinery also contributed to the jump.

Industrial goods and materials increased 1.7% to a record $8.9 billion in January, the sector's ninth consecutive rise. Record-high exports of metal ores pushed up the sector, as prices continued to climb and shipments of fertilizers increased.

Exports of agricultural products rose 3.3% to a record high $2.9 billion, surpassing the old record of June 2004. Increased exports of soybeans, canola and corn accounted for the gain.

Woodpulp and lumber were both up in January, contributing to a 1.9% increase for the forestry sector. Newsprint exports were stable while sawmill products registered a decline.

Exports of energy products fell 2.0% to $7.1 billion for the month, dragged down by lower crude, coal and refined petroleum export values. While both crude petroleum and refined petroleum exports saw values fall, as a drop in prices offset a volume increase, a large drop in export volumes explained the decline for coal.

The recent export growth for automotive products came to an end in January, declining 2.5% to $7.3 billion. Lower auto shipments accounted for the decline, falling 8.1% to $3.7 billion. This followed a strong fourth quarter in 2006, during which new models were distributed across North America, and coincided with reports of weakening auto sales in the United States. This drop offset strong truck exports for the month, which were up 8.6% to $1.5 billion, and a 1.0% increase in motor vehicle parts to $2.2 billion.

Imports decline in all sectors but agriculture

Imports fell in all sectors save agricultural and fishing products, which increased for third consecutive month in January to a record high.

Imports of automotive products fell 6.5% in January to $6.7 billion, following strong imports at the end of 2006, due to robust sales in the West and Newfoundland and Labrador. The decline was felt by a wide variety of car-makers, as sales slowed in the new year.

Machinery and equipment imports were down 3.2% to $9.8 billion. Lower imports of aircraft as well as scientific equipment accounted for the majority of the decline. Imports of drilling and mining machinery, which had been growing throughout the latter half of 2006, also contributed to the decline in January.

Industrial goods and materials dropped 1.7% from the previous month to $7.0 billion, as companies posted reduced orders for metals and metal ores. In contrast, imports of chemicals and plastics were up 6.3% to $2.5 billion, primarily as a result of higher demand for chemicals required for the production of pharmaceutical products.

Imports of consumer goods also edged down in January. Imports of televisions, radios and similar goods sustained the losses, as did clothing and footwear, after rallying towards the end of 2006. Moderating these declines were increased imports of pharmaceutical products.

Agricultural and fishing imports surged 4.0% to a record high of $2.1 billion in January. Imports of fruit and vegetables hit a record level of $622 million, pushing up the sector as a whole. Fruit and vegetable imports have shown a steady growth trend over the past three years.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The January 2007 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 61, no. 1 (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XWE, free).

The publication is available free in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on products and services, contact Anne Couillard (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	December 2006	January 2007	December 2006 to January 2007	January 2006 to January 2007	January to December 2005	January to December 2006	January–December 2005 to January–December 2006
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	31,013	31,144	0.4	-3.4	368,577	361,310	-2.0
Japan	945	919	-2.8	3.1	10,471	10,760	2.8
European Union[1]	2,994	3,566	19.1	34.5	28,890	33,556	16.2
Other OECD countries[2]	1,944	1,702	-12.4	41.5	15,245	18,379	20.6
All other countries	3,481	3,425	-1.6	33.2	29,876	34,161	14.3
Total	**40,377**	**40,756**	**0.9**	**3.1**	**453,063**	**458,166**	**1.1**
Imports							
United States	23,088	22,419	-2.9	2.2	259,784	264,777	1.9
Japan	1,000	1,005	0.5	2.6	11,212	11,878	5.9
European Union[1]	3,489	3,341	-4.2	-3.7	38,349	42,175	10.0
Other OECD countries[2]	2,059	2,189	6.3	14.7	24,309	23,724	-2.4
All other countries	5,760	5,457	-5.3	7.6	54,556	61,982	13.6
Total	**35,396**	**34,410**	**-2.8**	**3.2**	**388,210**	**404,536**	**4.2**
Balance							
United States	7,925	8,725	...	...	108,793	96,533	...
Japan	-55	-86	...	...	-741	-1,118	...
European Union[1]	-495	225	...	...	-9,459	-8,619	...
Other OECD countries[2]	-115	-487	...	...	-9,064	-5,345	...
All other countries	-2,279	-2,032	...	...	-24,680	-27,821	...
Total	**4,981**	**6,346**	**...**	**...**	**64,853**	**53,630**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,805	2,897	3.3	10.1	30,217	31,525	4.3
Energy products	7,284	7,138	-2.0	-8.9	86,924	86,540	-0.4
Forestry products	2,722	2,774	1.9	-12.2	36,607	33,475	-8.6
Industrial goods and materials	8,754	8,905	1.7	22.2	84,641	94,706	11.9
Machinery and equipment	8,273	8,716	5.4	8.9	94,642	95,861	1.3
Automotive products	7,539	7,347	-2.5	-7.2	88,163	82,894	-6.0
Other consumer goods	1,786	1,737	-2.7	22.8	17,320	18,183	5.0
Special transactions trade[3]	735	725	-1.4	-2.9	8,290	8,733	5.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	478	517	8.2	-5.0	6,257	6,246	-0.2
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,051	2,133	4.0	10.3	22,054	23,448	6.3
Energy products	2,947	2,806	-4.8	8.0	33,659	34,834	3.5
Forestry products	270	257	-4.8	-0.4	3,137	3,082	-1.8
Industrial goods and materials	7,138	7,016	-1.7	-0.3	78,556	83,979	6.9
Machinery and equipment	10,073	9,754	-3.2	2.8	110,883	114,696	3.4
Automotive products	7,126	6,661	-6.5	-0.2	78,363	79,785	1.8
Other consumer goods	4,617	4,573	-1.0	4.9	49,461	52,019	5.2
Special transactions trade[3]	463	565	22.0	63.3	4,559	4,631	1.6
Other blance of payments adjustments	711	645	-9.3	-2.0	7,537	8,061	7.0

r *revised*
... *figures not appropriate or not applicable*
1. *Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.*
2. *Includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.*
3. *These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.*

■

Study: Determinants of unacceptable waiting times for specialized services

The longer Canadians wait for specialized medical services, the more they consider the waiting time unacceptable, according to a new study published recently in the journal *Healthcare Policy* by Statistics Canada analysts.

Patients whose lives were affected by waiting for care were also significantly more likely to consider their wait unacceptable than those whose lives were not affected.

The study used data collected in 2003 through the Health Services Access Survey to explore the determinants of unacceptable wait times for three types of specialized care: visits to specialists, non-emergency surgeries and diagnostic tests.

The analysis showed that longer waits and adverse experiences during the waiting period significantly increased the odds of reporting an unacceptable waiting time for all three types of specialized services.

For example, patients who reported waiting one to three months for a diagnostic test were almost nine times more likely to consider the wait unacceptable as those who waited less than one month.

Similarly, patients who indicated that the wait for diagnostic tests had had an effect on their lives were 11 times more likely to report the wait was unacceptable than those whose lives were not affected.

Interestingly, the study found that some patient characteristics, such as age and education, play a role in determining acceptability of waiting times. In general, older patients and those with lower levels of education were less likely to consider their waiting times unacceptable than younger, more highly educated people.

Patients less than 65 years of age were more likely to consider their waiting times unacceptable for consulting a specialist and having diagnostic tests.

Age and education have been linked to patient expectations regarding health system performance. The results of this study point to the potential role of patient expectations in determining the acceptability of waits for specialized services.

The study found that the majority of respondents reported waiting fewer than three months for their services. The proportion of people who declared that their waiting time was unacceptable ranged from 17% for individuals seeking elective surgery to 29% of patients who sought help from a specialist.

Only 10% of those waiting for elective surgery indicated that waiting for care affected their lives. This increased to nearly 19% among those waiting for a consultation with a specialist.

The impact on their lives could range from experiencing worry, stress and anxiety to physical effects such as pain, problems in performing daily activities or deterioration of overall health.

The study "Determinants of unacceptable waiting times for specialized services in Canada" was published in *Healthcare Policy*. An abstract is available online (*http://www.healthcarepolicy.net*).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data, or to obtain a copy, contact Claudia Sanmartin (613-951-6059; *claudia.sanmartin@statcan.ca*), Health Analysis and Measurement Group. ■

Export and import price indexes

January 2007

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2007 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2007. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The January 2007 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Chain Fisher dollar export and import values

1997

The International Trade Division has now produced and will be updating and disseminating chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 1997) for Canadian international merchandise exports and imports.

This series is not available in CANSIM.

Interested users who wish to order are advised to contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

January 2007 (preliminary)

Demand for motor gasoline and diesel fuel oil in January helped to push total refined product sales up 4.8% from a year earlier to 8 182 100 cubic metres. These two major transportation fuels accounted for 66% of all product sales.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	January 2006[r]	January 2007[p]	January 2006 to January 2007
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7,806.7**	**8,182.1**	**4.8**
Motor gasoline	3,137.8	3,299.7	5.2
Diesel fuel oil	2,004.1	2,128.2	6.2
Light fuel oil	568.5	629.9	10.8
Heavy fuel oil	546.9	521.4	-4.7
Aviation turbo fuels	517.4	438.0	-15.3
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	259.8	386.0	48.6
All other refined products	772.3	778.8	0.8

r *revised*

p *preliminary*

1. *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Motor gasoline sales increased 161 900 cubic metres or 5.2% higher than January 2006. Diesel fuel oil sales rose 124 100 cubic metres or 6.2%. Light fuel oil used mainly for heating purposes increased 61 400 cubic metres or 10.8% from a year earlier. (One cubic metre is equivalent to 6.3 barrels.)

Sales rose in all three grades of motor gasoline. Premium gasoline led the way at 13.3% followed by regular non-leaded (+4.6%) and mid-grade at (+2.5%).

Note: Preliminary domestic sales of refined petroleum products data is no longer available on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oil pipeline industry

2005

Financial and operational data on the oil pipeline industry are now available for 2005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2179.

For more information, or to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, January 2007, Vol. 61, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(free).

Labour Force Information, February 11 to 17, 2007
Catalogue number 71-001-XWE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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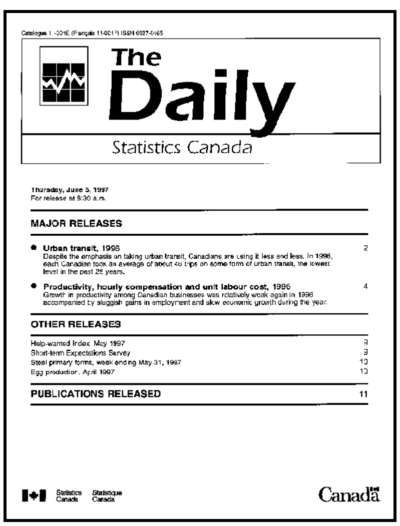

Catalogue 1 -001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada
Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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Release dates: March 12 to 16, 2007

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
12	**Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost**	Fourth quarter 2006
13	**Population and dwelling counts**	2006 Census
14	**Industrial capacity utilization rates**	Fourth quarter 2006
14	**New motor vehicle sales**	January 2007
15	**Canada's international investment position**	Fourth quarter 2006
15	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	January 2007
16	**National balance sheet accounts**	Fourth quarter 2006